(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to ban fielding of candidates having more than two children in any election from Panchayat to Parliament, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Prime Minister would like to convene a meeting of leaders of various parties in Parliament to draw a strategy on the subject as a country man over and above party affiliations; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) No, Sir. The population of India is projected to reach the one billion mark on 11th May, 2000.

(b) to (d) The Constitution (Seventy Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in December, 1992. Under the provisions of the proposed Bill, a person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being a Member of either House of Parliament or the legislative Assembly or, as the case may be, either House of the Legislature of a State, if he/she has more than two children. However, it will not apply to those who already have more than two children or those who beget an additional child within one year of the commencement of the Act.

The Bill has been recommended by the Standing Committee of the Parliament on HRD for consideration and passage, with the recommendation that before moving the Bill for consideration a meeting of political parties may be convened to arrive at a consensus. Accordingly, a meeting of the political parties was held under the chairpersonship of MOS (H&FW) on 14th August, 1997. It was felt that further consultation with political leaders is required to arrive at a consensus on the subject.

Another meeting of leaders of political parties/Groups in the Parliament was held on 13th December, 1999. However, no consensus emerged during the deliberations.

The discussions are continuing to arrive at a consensus among political parties, for passage of the Bill.

Reinstating the Officials of DGHS

1738. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some officials of Medical Stores Organisation of DGHS were suspended in 1999 regarding medical supplies to Tihar Jail, without giving them sufficient chance to present their case;

(b) whether this goes against the rules prescribed in the CCS(CCA) Rules 1964, and;

(c) whether Government propose to immediately reinstate these officials, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Under the CCS(CCA) Rules 1965, there is no provision for giving a notice or chance to present the version of the charged officer before suspending him.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Swaminathan Report on Population Control

1739. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken some positive decisions on Swaminathan Report to control the country's population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when all the recommendations are likely to be implemented in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Population Policy, 2000 has been formulated by Government and placed in both Houses of Parliament.

AIDS Cases

1740. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of AIDS patients in the country, State- wise, and their growth rate during the last three years;

(b) whether the growth rate is following some pattern regarding specific segments of society, profession/income/education/age-wise or any other;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how Government plan to address this problem in an effective way, considering the high growth rate?